

Step Back...

Q: What is the most important problem that you have to solve over the next few years?

How to Succeed as a Student

- Take a “problem solving stance” with this problem of succeeding as a student.
- What are problems that students run into?
- What are strategies for academic success?

Engage the Problem

- Being a student is a job.
 - With all of the responsibilities that implies
 - A full time student has a full time job (typically 40-60 hours/week is expected)
 - To succeed requires treating it with the same sense of professionalism that you must treat a job to succeed.

Four Keys to Success

- Learn to network
- Learn to focus
- Learn to present
- Learn to play the game
 - Don't change a winning game, but always change a losing one.

Learn to Network

- The #1 problem for many students is lack of interaction with faculty/staff
 - Not only can they help you academically, they also help you professionally
- #2 problem for many students is lack of interaction with other students in the discipline
 - Build a support environment/community

Learn to Focus: Organization

- Communications/email
- Deadlines in-the-large
 - Degree/semester deadlines
- Deadlines in-the-small
 - Daily/weekly planners
 - To-Do lists

Learn to Focus: Environment

- Doing hard work requires a conducive environment
 - Setting yourself up for success
- Certain types of work don't need full attention
 - Music, etc. might be OK
- Other types of work need complete focus
 - Writing (prose or code), most homework problems, hard debugging.

Persistence vs. Productivity

- Some students just don't work hard enough
- Some students work hard... but don't get good results. Possible causes:
 - Poor networking skills
 - Poor organizational skills
 - Poor working environment

Learn to Present

- Email communications
- Tests
- Homework
- Writing
- Proof and argument

Learn to Play the Game

- Being a good student is a (learned) skill, not an (innate) ability
- Get the easy points
 - Never shortchange easy assignments or classes
 - A little investment (or reallocation) of time could raise your overall score
- Learn the testing game
- Learn time management/stress management
- If you need testing time accommodation, don't be shy about getting it.

Change a Losing Game

- Felder & Silverman Learning styles scale
 - What is your preferred approach to learning?
 - Be prepared to adjust to various styles of course
 - Seek adjustment in the course conditions if practical

Resources

- Faculty/staff!!
- Writing Center
- Counseling Center
 - Mental health
 - Eating disorders, substance abuse
 - Stress
 - Career counseling
 - Study skills, etc.